

R E M A R K S

The Official Action of June 1, 2004 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The indicated allowability of Claim 29 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims has been noted with appreciation. Claim 29 has now been canceled and rewritten in independent form as new Claim 39. This claim includes all of the limitations of base Claim 1 and any intervening claim (i.e., Claim 10). New Claims 40-67 are dependent claims which correspond with the claims depending from Claim 1.

Claim 3 has been canceled to remove the basis for the objection at paragraph 2 of the Official Action. Claims 32 and 33 have been amended in the manner courteously suggested by the Examiner at paragraph 4 of the Official Action to remove the basis for rejection to these claims. All claims as amended are respectfully believed to be sufficiently definite to satisfy the dictates of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claim 1 has been amended to limit the alkylene glycols in the recited Markush group of wetting agents to (C₄₋₁₀ alkyl) diols in accordance with the disclosure in the specification at, for example, the paragraph bridging pages 28-29. New Claims 38 and 39 have been added to recite subgroups of the recited wetting agents. It is respectfully submitted that these claims are free of the prior art rejections appearing at paragraphs 6-10 of the Official Action for reasons next discussed.

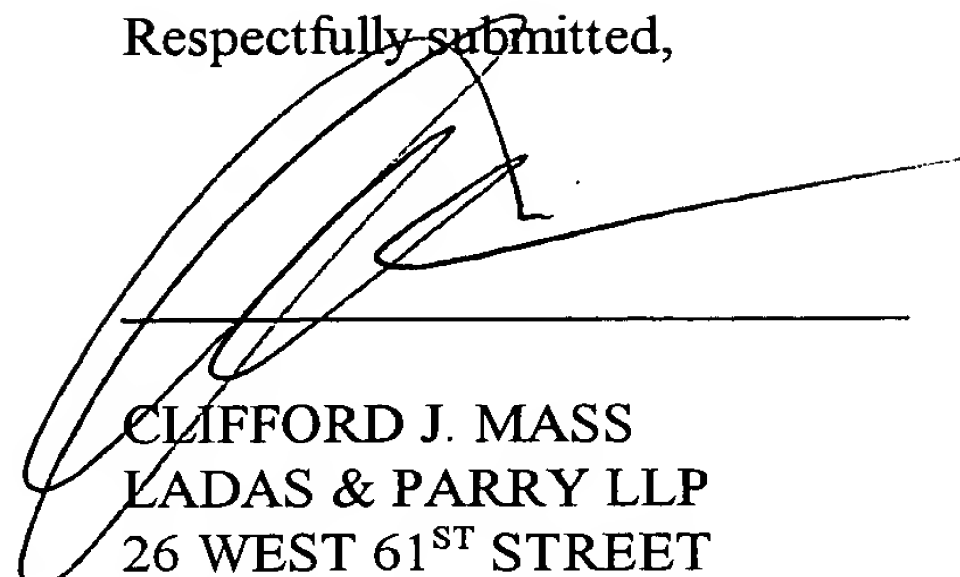
Claim 1 as amended now recites a specific wetting agent that is not shown or

suggested in the primary reference, EP 851005, which reference is cited in the rejections appearing at paragraphs 6-10 of the Official Action. EP 851005 discloses, for example, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, and propylene glycol, but does not disclose C₄₋₁₀ alkyl diols.

The Examiner contends at paragraph 8 of the Official Action that one of the secondary references, Takada et al, discloses the equivalence and interchangeability between ethylene glycol and acetylene alcohol and, on this basis, the Examiner contends that this secondary reference would have provided a motivation for one of skill in the art to use acetylene alcohol as the wetting agent in the pigment dispersion of EP 851005. Applicant respectfully disagrees and notes that Takada et al distinguish between the water-soluble organic solvents described in column 10, lines 14-39 of the reference, and the additives for imparting desirable properties described in column 10, line 61 to column 11, line 16. Specifically, at column 10, lines 61-67, Takada et al disclose the use of ethylene glycol and acetylene alcohol as additives for, for example, preventing drying of the ink. Takada et al do not show any interchangeability of ethylene glycol and acetylene alcohol for use as the water-soluble organic solvents described in column 10, lines 14-39. Takada et al *a fortiori* do not provide any motivation to use acetylene alcohol as a main solvent (wetting agent) in the primary reference, EP 851005.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended patentably distinguish from the cited art and that the application is otherwise in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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